

*OPHIACANTHA CLYPEATA* N. SP. FROM THE BERING SEA, WITH  
A REDESCRIPTION OF *OPHIACANTHA RHACHOPHORA* CLARK  
(ECHINODERMATA: OPHIUROIDEA)

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An examination of the holotype of *Ophiacantha rhachophora* Clark, 1911 (USNM 25630), from the Korea Strait revealed definite discrepancies between it and Clark's original description. Clark's account consisted of a complete drawing and a very brief comparison of *O. rhachophora* to *O. levispina* Lyman, 1878, and *O. adiaphora* Clark, 1911. Further material from Clark's original series of *O. rhachophora* was obtained in an effort to match Clark's specimens to his published description. The additional specimens had been collected from the Bering Sea and although similar to *O. rhachophora*, were significantly different in several aspects. Because of these differences and the geographical separation of the 2 groups of specimens, the Bering Sea animals are described herein as a new species. Additional U.S. National Museum specimens of *O. rhachophora* from near the type-locality, *Albatross* Sta. 4902 (32°30'50"N, 128°34'40"E), were then studied. Most of these closely resembled the type of *O. rhachophora*. However, 3 samples labeled *O. rhachophora* were reidentified as follows: USNM 26985, 3 specimens of *O. adiaphora*; USNM 27060, 4 specimens of *O. adiaphora*; and USNM 26605, 1 specimen of *O. rhachophora*, and 1 of *O. adiaphora*.

Matsumoto (1917) published a brief description and figures of specimens that he had identified as *O. rhachophora*. His figures resembled Clark's type-specimen quite closely except for minor differences.

Ophiacanthidae

*Ophiacantha rhachophora* H. L. Clark, 1911

Figs. 1, 2

*Redescription*.—Disc diameter 5.0 mm; arm length approximately 20-30 mm (no intact arms). Aboral surface of disc thickly covered with minute thorny stumps. Radial shields covered, only distal tips bare aborally. Upper arm plates triangular, widely separated, without spines. Oral interbranchial spaces covered with thorny stumps like those on disc except immediately distal to oral shield where scales are visible. Genital slits large, conspicuous. Oral shield variable, triangular with small distal obtuse lobe to pentagonal. Adoral shields relatively massive, wider without than within, sometimes bearing 1 thorny papilla. Oral shield and first lateral arm segment separated by adoral shields. Each jaw with 6 oral papillae and 1 infradental papilla; distal oral papillae markedly thorny; more proximal papillae flatter and